Everything you need to know about

Wedding etiquette

by Ellen Vanstone in metroVIEWS

Vancouver metro

Your essential daily news | MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2016

RANDI ZUCKERBERG

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Mayor wants new taxes to address housing issue

AFFORDABILITY

Economist argues the city should look at its own policies

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver's mayor is renewing calls to the federal and provincial governments to implement a speculation and luxury sales tax on housing, but several economists say city council needs to pull its weight by increasing housing density.

"I urge the provincial and federal governments to heed the warnings from the financial sector and implement clear measures to rein in the excesses of Vancouver's housing market," Mayor Gregor Robertson said in a written statement released Sunday.

"The CEO of Scotiabank spoke out in support of a luxury sales tax. The deputy chief economist at CIBC supports a 'flipping' tax as a measure to reduce speculation. I support both these tools and will continue to aggressively advocate for them to the federal and provincial governments as a way to help create a level playing field in the Vancouver housing market."

But economist Tsur Somerville said while taxes are a step in the right direction, the city should take a hard look at its own policies instead of pointing the finger at other levels of governments.

"What the city has at its disposal … is being as aggressive as possible on (creating) more options for dense housing or location," said Somerville, an associate professor at UBC's Sauder School of Business.

His colleague, Thomas Davidhoff, agreed. Rezoning single-family-housing neighbourhoods to allow developers to build multi-unit projects would go a long way to improve supply, he said.

"Get out of the way of the market — let the market build some density," he said.

Data from the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver shows that housing prices continue to climb in Metro Vancouver. The benchmark price for residential properties in Metro Vancouver in May was $889,100, a 30 per cent increase from the same time last year, according to the board.

Paddlers race in dragon boats at False Creek in Vancouver.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO FILE

CROWDED CREEK

Pleasure craft are getting dangerously close to dragon boat races — and organizers want the city to take action

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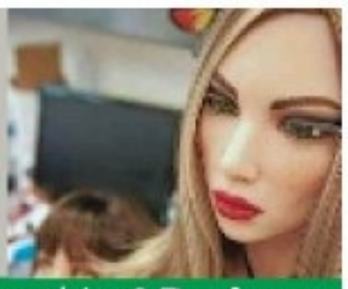

Sex, love and robots — but what about the ethics? **Business**

Breaking bread and barriers

FAITH

Art showcases diverse voices in the Muslim community

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Monday marks the start of Ramadan — the Islamic month of daytime fasting — and seldom-heard voices in the local Muslim community are preparing to break bread together, in ways new and old.

"For Muslims, Ramadan is really a time for families to come together," said Vancouver poet Amal Rana, one of the founders of Breaking the Fast, a June 23 poetry and performance evening featuring queer, transgender and feminist Muslims.

"Ramadan is a time for not just physically, but also metaphorically, breaking bread together," the self-identified queer mixed-race Pakistani woman told Metro in a phone interview. "This event is a way of breaking isolation from each other and building chosen families."

Now in its third year, Breaking the Fast has grown from an annual event to a year-round blog showcasing Muslim artists both local and international.

Rana said the event initially stemmed from a scarcity of spaces in the city that celebrated the wide diversity of voices in the Muslim community.

Amal Rana is one of the founders of the annual Breaking the Fast event in Ramadan. COURTESY KATHERINE HO

"I'd come to a point — as a performer, as a poet, and as a queer Muslim — where I was looking for places to share my work where I felt comfortable," she said. "There wasn't really anywhere that spoke to a rad Muslim perspective. So the impetus was really to create a space for celebration."

One of the poets returning to perform at this year's event told Metro that Breaking the Fast was the first time she felt she could be "unapologetic" with her poetry. The 22-year-old, whose parents emigrated from East Africa, asked not to be identified.

"Just watching other powerful Muslim voices being honest about their experiences has allowed me to really dig deep into my intimate connection with my own identity, and not to shy away from it," she said. "It was nerve-racking but refreshing to have an audience that listened and that was very welcoming and accepting."

During Ramadan, most of the world's 1.6 billion Muslims abstain from food, sex and liquid during daylight hours, unless unable to for health reasons. For many, sunset is a time to break the fast with community and family with a meal known as Iftar.

Sharing food at sundown isn't the only tradition observed at Breaking the Fast. Rana said one of the most powerful parts of the evening is the call to prayer, or azan — and unlike in the majority of mosques, at the Vancouver event the prayer is led by a woman.

"Which may seem unusual, but there have actually been women doing that in history," she noted. "Our Islam is complex and fluid, and Muslims are incredibly diverse.

"We're actually reclaiming these existing traditions from our histories. Queer, trans, feminist and social justice voices are nothing new in our communities. But we're also not afraid of building new ways of doing things."

DETAILS

Breaking the Fast will be held on June 23 at the Heartwood Community Café (317 East Broadway Ave.), by donation. More at breakingthefastblog.tumblr.com

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Dragon boat safety issues arise

SPORT

City petitioned to address boat moorings in False Creek

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

Almost 2,000 paddlers competed in last weekend's qualifying regatta for this summer's Vancouver Dragon Boat Festival but the False Creek race did not go as planned for at least one team.

A large motorized pleasure craft drifted into the path of an oncoming dragon boat Saturday morning, causing the team to veer off course and lose precious time.

"We were tossed around — we didn't fall off or anything, but we had to go around the boat," said Katie Leong, who has competed in dragon boat races for five years.

It was her second close call with a motorized boat.

It can be frustrating for everyone involved, she said. Officials sometimes have to re-start races due to boats wandering into the course.

This time, there was no re-start and Leong's team had to settle for an unsatisfying competition. She will race in the B Division at the Concord Dragon Boat Festival June 17 to 19.

Race organizers hope to avoid a potentially dangerous repeat on the big day.

More than 600 people have signed an online petition asking the City of Vancouver and Transport Canada to address the mooring of boats in East False Creek on race days.

"It's a safety issue," said Anita Webster, spokeswoman for Dragon Boat BC.

The existing process is not working well enough, said Webster. In the days leading up to a race, Dragon Boat BC calls boat owners, using contact information provided by the city, to ensure they know to clear the area.

But that doesn't always work and sometimes dragon boaters have to paddle around sailboats that have drifted into the racecourse.

Dragon Boat BC and the Canadian Dragon Boat Festival Society ultimately wants the government to make False Creek East a marine park, which would effectively ban all pleasure craft from mooring in the area.

Let's talk transit fares

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TRANSLINK

Michelle Reid of Mills Office Productivity likes her job, if not the Vancouver cost of living. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MONEY

Jobs with difference a lure to Vancouver

As Michelle Reid watches Vancouver house prices soar, she sometimes kicks herself for not buying property 10 years ago.

But Reid can tough it out financially because she has a job where she's making a difference, which some Vancouver businesses are using to entice workers to the city with a high cost of living.

> **That's a universal truth, that it's an expensive place to live.**
> Keith Ippel

"There are a couple of things we're going to have to give up, but I don't feel unhappy for it in the long run," said Reid. "If I had to work in a job that was soulless, that would be a far worse outcome."

Reid, 40, works for Mills Office Productivity and oversees the company's environmental and social initiatives.

The company's values deliver satisfaction beyond a six-figure salary, and that has helped recruit two new recent employees despite the expensive housing market.

The city's social-venture sector has grown by 35 per cent since 2010, employing almost 13,000 people and exceeding earnings of $500 million annually, says a 2015 study by the University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business. The study defines these ventures as businesses that contribute toward a social, environmental or cultural mission, purpose or benefit.

Companies will be recruiting at a Vancouver career fair on Thursday called Startup City: Impact. Businesses at the fair want candidates who might otherwise be considering positions in less costly cities, said Keith Ippel, CEO of Spring Activator, which is co-ordinating the fair among a week of business-support events.

"That's a universal truth, that it's an expensive place to live," said Ippel. "The reality is employers need to find new ways to look beyond cash as a way to get people excited about joining."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wreck Beach Preservation Society members protest near the trail to access the clothing-optional waterfront. DAVID P. BALL/METRO

'We won't be ignored'

TRANSIT

TransLink says decision to end bus stop strikes balance

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

A handful of Wreck Beach stalwarts bared all Sunday at noon, emerging from their usual clothing-optional waterfront confines to expose what they said is a nakedly unfair decision by TransLink to end the beach's direct bus service.

The transit provider, however, countered that by ending service to stop No. 51924 — at the top of Wreck Beach's access pathway on Marine Drive — they were able to provide two-way bus service to more densely populated parts of the University of British Columbia's campus.

Before the change, the C20 bus only went one-way around the Marine Drive loop, forcing students and faculty further east to sometimes travel much further than necessary. The authority said beachgoers will only have to walk slightly further to ride the bus.

"For people visiting Wreck Beach, the closest bus stop is about 280 metres — or a four-minute walk — from the trailhead," a TransLink spokesman said in an emailed statement. "We acknowledge that moving the bus stop to the Lower Mall means a slightly longer walk for these customers.

"However … Lower Mall was deemed the best mid-point that also serves customers at the main population centres further east on the campus."

But for the small group of unclothed demonstrators with the outspoken Wreck Beach Preservation Society, the service change failed to account for the thousands of transit users who have for years depended on bus service, and already have to navigate hundreds of stairs up the steep slope from the shoreline.

> **The naked truth is that they … need to be brought to their senses, and we won't tolerate it.**
> Judy Williams

"We're here today to protest TransLink's lack of consultation," said society chair Judy Williams as she stripped naked and police blocked the roadway to traffic on either side. "They've taken away our only bus stop."

She estimated that the busy eight-kilometre-long beach hosts up to 14,000 people a day on summer weekends.

"We won't be ignored," she said.

"The naked truth is that they … need to be brought to their senses, and we won't tolerate it."

CRIME

RCMP investigating weekend shooting

Richmond RCMP have identified the man killed in what they call a bold and brazen weekend shooting.

Police say 56-year-old Amarjit Singh Sandhu died in hospital after being shot Saturday evening.

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Pound says the shooting happened in a very public setting and called the act selfish and cold.

The incident occurred at a strip mall in the south end of the city.

Police say the shooting appears to be targeted and that no other people were injured.

The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team is looking into the incident.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Search called off for missing swimmer

Police say the search has been called off for a missing swimmer in the Fraser River.

Surrey RCMP say the man was with some people drinking alcohol and having a bonfire on the beach when they decided to swim around the SkyTrain bridge pillar and back.

One of the men, a 32-year-old Burnaby resident, did not come back to the surface after going under. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mumps outbreak spreads

Health authorities say more than 40 people in Whistler, Squamish, North Vancouver and Vancouver are reported to have mumps.

The vaccine is available for free from pharmacists, family doctors and most walk-in clinics.

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Getting votes for assisted dying bill

POLITICS

PM lets caucus follow their conscience on controversy

Doug Eyolfson did not love the physician-assisted dying bill at first, but he ended up supporting it.

The Winnipeg emergency room doctor and Liberal MP was concerned the Trudeau government's proposed legislation would not allow patients to decide in advance they would like to end their lives with the help of a physician once they reached a certain point.

"It's something that I would personally want for myself and something I would like to see, at some point, provided to patients as an option," Eyolfson said.

The deeply personal played a major role in the decisions of individual Liberals when it came to their votes on Bill C-14, the federal government's response to the Supreme Court ruling that did away with the ban on physician-assisted suicide.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau kept his promise to give his caucus a free vote on this matter of conscience, while ensuring his Liberal government avoided embarrassment on a major piece of legislation which could end up being a part of its legacy.

The political victory could be short-lived, as C-14 is getting a serious grilling in the far-less-predictable Senate, but the moves to quell opposition debate in the House of Commons and the lengthy discussions with caucus offer a glimpse at how the government will handle other thorny issues it will face during its mandate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks during the annual Press Gallery Dinner. ALL PHOTOS THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tom Mulcair literally dropped the mic. Literally.

POLITICAL COMEDY

Leaders crack wise at Press Gallery dinner

Federal party leaders put down their swords to celebrate those who wield the pens and microphones Saturday night.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, interim Opposition Conservative Leader Rona Ambrose and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair all spoke at a dinner honouring 150 years of the parliamentary press gallery.

None missed an opportunity for digs at themselves, each other and the reporters they gathered to celebrate.

And neither did Trudeau's wife, Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau.

In reference to recent coverage that she needs more staff, she called four members of Trudeau's inner circle to the stage at the Museum of History and had them unveil a yoga mat.

> **I will miss his leadership, his good advice. I will not miss the wedgies.** Justin Trudeau, on Barack Obama

She then balanced herself on her arms, legs up in the air, telling her husband that was how it was done — a dig at a photo of him doing a similar move that's been widely circulated online.

Justin Trudeau also poked fun at another political counterpart — U.S. President Barack Obama.

At the recent White House Correspondents Dinner, Obama had cracked a joke at Trudeau's expense. Trudeau's response: He'll miss him.

"I will miss his leadership, his good advice," he said. "I will not miss the wedgies."

Another leader whose departure was noted: former prime minister Stephen Harper.

In offering up suggestions for new slogans for the current Conservatives, Ambrose suggested "the bad man is gone."

On his way out — and choosing to hold nothing back — was Mulcair, who declared he was different than the others because he no longer cares.

After a speech laden with hits at pollsters, various media outlets and himself, he drew to a close.

"I have a lot more here but I was just informed in Edmonton that I have to go," he said.

He then dropped a microphone on the stage and declared "Mulcair out." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Daesh stronghold secured

MIDDLE EAST

Extremists losing grasp in Iraq, Syria

Iraqi forces secured the southern edge of Daesh's stronghold of Fallujah on Sunday, two weeks after the launch of an operation to recapture the city, the Iraqi special forces commander overseeing the operation said.

Iraqi special forces, also known as its counterterrorism forces, have secured the largely agricultural southern neighbourhood of Naymiyah under cover of U.S.-led coalition airstrikes, Lt. Gen. Abdel Wahab al-Saadi said. Special forces are now poised to enter the main city, al-Saadi said.

The Fallujah operation coincides with a twin offensive on Daesh-strongholds in neighbouring Syria. Syrian Kurdish forces are advancing on Manbij, a Daesh-held city controlling the supply route between the Turkish border and the town of Raqqa, the militants' de facto capital. At the same time, Syrian government troops are advancing on Raqqa from the south.

The slow-moving Iraqi operation was announced in May. An array of troops including Iraqi military divisions, the federal police and the largely Shiite militia groups, known as the Popular Mobilization Forces, had cleared Daesh from the majority of Fallujah's suburbs.

On Monday, Iraq's elite special forces began pushing into the city centre, but they have faced stiff resistance as Fallujah has been under Daesh control for more than two years, and the militants have been able to erect complex defences.

Tall dirt berms dot the dusty fields to the city's south. A single column of counterterrorism Humvees snaked up toward a row of low lying houses that mark the beginning of the main city.

"VIBED! VIBED!" shouted an Iraqi air commander from a small mobile base. Using an acronym for a car bomb, the Iraqi special forces officer called to Australian coalition forces over a hand-held radio. Moments later, a plume of white, then black smoke appeared on the horizon. Commanders at the scene said the explosion was created by a coalition rocket destroying the incoming car bomb.

"We are expecting many more," once inside the city's more urban neighbourhoods, al-Saadi said. Fallujah is one of the last strongholds of Daesh in Iraq. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abdul Rahman Ismail, an Iraqi soldier who has been targeted by Daesh extremists who destroyed his house two years ago, is reunited with his family after they fled their town, as displaced Iraqi families gather outside a military camp outside Fallujah. KHALID MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FATALITY

A top Syrian Kurdish commander died Sunday, several days after sustaining injuries during a U.S.-backed campaign to unseat Daesh from its de facto Syrian capital, Raqqa. Abu Layla, who commanded a brigade inside the predominantly Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces, was hit by Daesh sniper fire near Manbij, a key stronghold that controls the supply route between the Turkish border and Raqqa.

ECONOMY

Swiss vote no to basic income

Swiss voters overwhelmingly rejected a proposal that would have guaranteed everyone in the Alpine nation an unconditional basic income, according to projections published Sunday by public broadcaster SRF1.

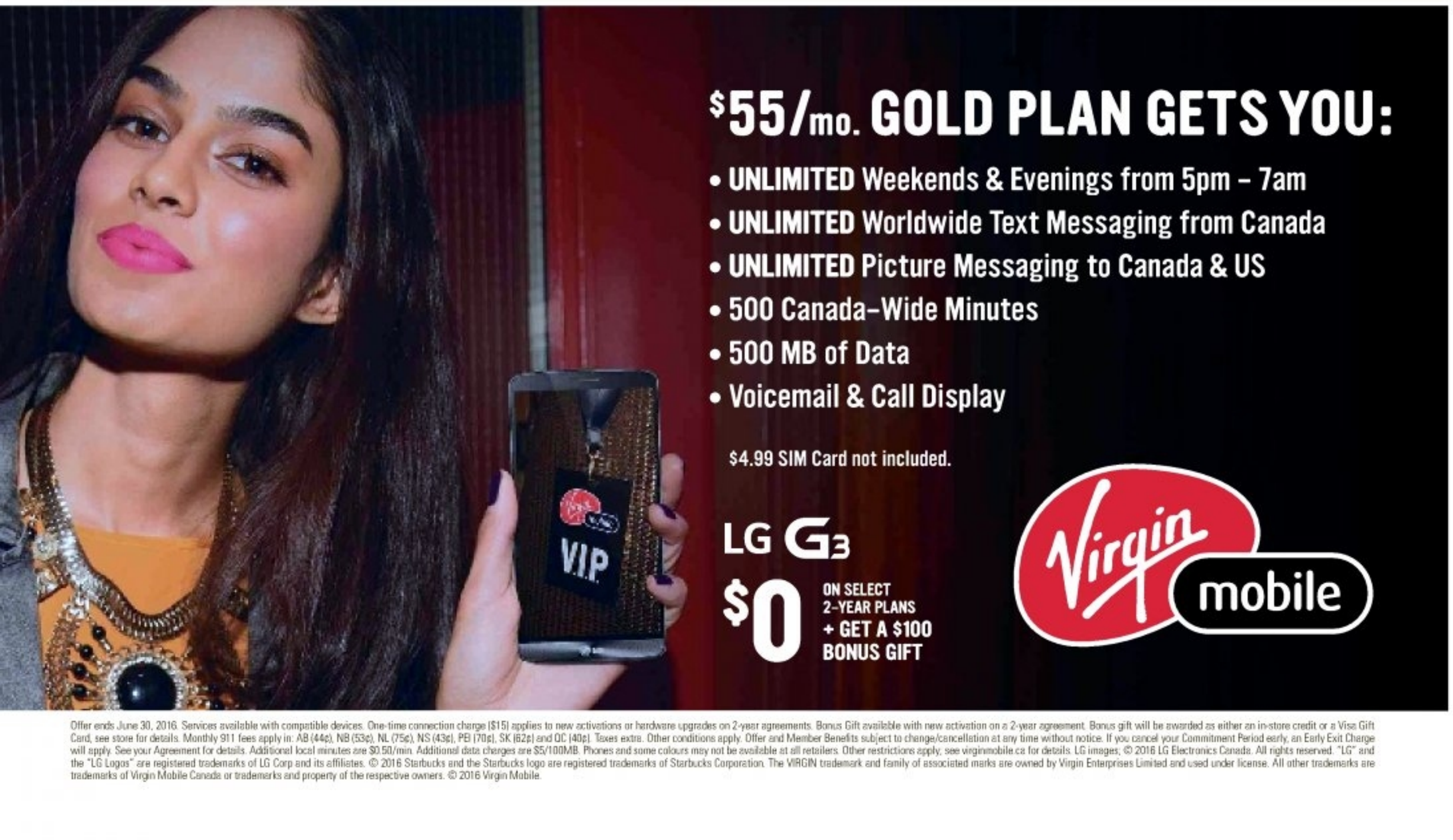
The plan could have seen people in this wealthy nation of 8 million people receive about 2,500 Swiss francs ($2,560) per month — enough to cover their basic needs.

Proponents argued that a basic income would free people from meaningless toil and allow them to pursue more productive or creative goals in life. Critics said the plan would explode the budget and encourage idleness, which appears to have convinced voters.

Based on a partial count of results from 19 Swiss cantons (states), the gfs.bern polling group calculated that 78 per cent of voters opposed the measure against 22 per cent in favour.

The Swiss government advised voters to reject the proposal, but the idea has won over some economists.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Robot sex, love and ethics

TECHNOLOGY

Advancement in robotics raising ethical questions

She's the perfect woman: 34-24-34, compliant and agreeable, an enjoyable conversationalist and lacking any traits that could be considered a flaw — including rejection.

That's because she's a machine.

Robots designed to satisfy sexual desires are close to transcending fantasy to become reality thanks to rapid advancements in artificial intelligence, computing that allows machines to mimic human affects and high-tech sensors and materials.

The technology has so far yet to cross the "uncanny valley" — the wide gulf from creepy to sexy sparked by almost-but-not-quite real humanoid robots.

They're essentially rubber bodies with motors and some software; more like the love doll Bianca from Lars and The Real Girl than emotionally intelligent gynoid Ava from Ex Machina.

But sex robots are already raising ethical, legal and moral questions of consent, sexism, human biases and what our desire for them says about human psychology.

The debate over them highlights one of the more controversial aspects of the increasingly social nature of our interactions with robots as they move from factories into our homes and someday, our bedrooms.

"How we treat robots — it's a mirror of our own psychology in a way," said Kate Darling, an expert in robot ethics at MIT's Media Lab.

Darling is fascinated by our strange desire to anthropomorphize, or attribute human agency to machines, and engage with them in a social way. She studies human empathy for robots through the lens of violence toward them.

"The interesting thing is not the robots, it's how robots reveal things about our own behaviour and psychology that we're only just learning — including the question of whether sex robots are going to be a healthy thing or unhealthy thing for people."

The Realbotix factory, where some of the world's first sex robots are being developed. ABYSS CREATIONS/PHOENIX STUDIOS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sex robot company True Companion says thousands of people have paid upwards of $7,000 for pre-orders of Roxxxy, "the world's first sex robot," programmed to learn an owner's preferences. However, it remains unclear whether any have actually been produced.

Elsewhere in the race to be first to market, Real Doll is developing Realbotix, a high-end silicone doll with artificial intelligence. It plans to release prototypes this year with sales slated for 2017.

However, there's also an organized campaign to ban sex robots over a lack of critical examination of questions about the potential harms and inequalities exacerbated by the new sex objects.

Sinziana Gutiu, a lawyer who authored a chapter in Robot Law on ethics and sexbots called The Roboticization of Consent believes users could be alienated by rendering them less able to form human relationships and that they could erode the need for consent in male-female sex.

The lack of consent and heightened control in robots is problematic, she said, and could further objectify and dehumanize real women and children.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sex robots are raising questions of consent, sexism and human psychology. ABYSS CREATIONS/PHOENIX STUDIOS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Your essential daily news
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URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE RULES: WEDDINGS

As the summer-wedding wave prepares to crest, it's time to write down the most important of the many unwritten rules meant to ensure that this sexist, outdated, tacky tradition goes off as well as can be hoped for.

As June unfolds, and another batch of blushing brides and grooms pursue their hopelessly romantic, and also hopeless, dream of a perfect wedding, herewith are a few guest-etiquette basics. As always, the point is to be considerate, and this goes double for people who are getting married. For the attendees, keep in mind this is the one time normal, well-adjusted people are allowed to play out their dumbest, most outdated, sexist, tasteless, delusional fantasies. So take a deep breath, shut down your judgmental cortex — and let them go nuts.

Travel and accommodation. If the ceremony is taking place in the couple's hometown, it's up to you to get yourself there whether you live next door or on another continent. If it's a "destination wedding" set in an exotic location far from anyone's home, and if the couple (or their parents) are filthy rich, you might reasonably expect to be put up at the destination's resort, or ashram or mountain aerie. Alas, it's more common these days for guests to pay their own way, so if you can't afford it, do not feel obliged to go. Whether you want to honestly state your reasons or concoct a tactful (i.e., believable) excuse is up to you. And, though you may resent their de facto exclusion of less wealthy guests such as yourself, proper etiquette dictates you must still send a gift.

What to wear. If the bride is wearing virginal white, and you want to appear even more virginal, by all means show up in a long white gown. But it's more considerate to let her have her day, however false the advertising might be. If you wear a fancy dress, and you want to be extra considerate, find out what colour the bridesmaids are wearing so you can avoid that hue, too. If you're at all confused about the dress code, or your hosts are from a vastly different culture than your own, simply ask ahead of time what kind of attire is appropriate. Otherwise, a simple dress, summer suit or crisp shirt should be fine.

As every moviegoer knows, people are constantly having sex at weddings.

Speeches. If you're giving a speech, try not to be too drunk. And please do not tell "amusing" stories about the bride or groom's sexual history. Or anyone else's for that matter. If you're being subjected to endless speeches, drink up and shut up. Heckling is strictly verboten at weddings, no matter how boring or offensive the speechifiers may be.

Sit where you're told. Studies (mine) show that 47 per cent of wedding guests are dissatisfied with where they're sitting. In 99 per cent of cases, however, the seating plan is created without any conscious agenda to insult you personally. Unless you're eating off a crate in the kitchen with the household pets, suck it up.

Gifts. The basic rule is that you have up to a year to produce a gift — which is handy if you're certain the couple won't last that long. As for money versus actually bought-and-wrapped presents, see the advice at the top: It's their rodeo, their rules — just go with it.

Food. A vegetarian option is pretty much de rigueur these days. But if you're vegan with gluten allergies or any other moral or gut-related sensitivities, you might want to discreetly smuggle in your own seaweed rollups or whatever you eat to stay alive.

Illicit sex. As every moviegoer knows, people are constantly having sex at weddings, usually with the wrong people, which can lead to mixing with murderers (The Godfather) or yet more marriage (Wedding Crashers). Note that this behaviour is not mandatory — unless you're a bridesmaid (kidding!). Just a little outdated, sexist, tasteless humour to get you in the mood for your next nuptial event.

Need advice? Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

Staying in touch after your friends move to Planet Baby

More than ever before, friends are people in faraway places.

Not exclusively, maybe not even perpetually (the older I get, the more stories I hear of people moving "home," as if to underline that building a life on your own can eventually strain).

Some of my beloved friends remain overseas, or over the Rockies. And yet I've never felt so distant as when they become pregnant.

Single or married women of my ilk carry on much the same, no matter where we live. We work, we date, we run marathons or join road-bike racing teams, we move for a new job or get married. We inch forward in our careers or start new ones, go on holidays — even buy a home.

That — affording a house — is treated like a miracle, but of course it has nothing on creating a life. And as a never-pregnant, never-nursing, never-rearing woman, I simply can't relate.

One pregnant friend living in Geneva, weeks from her due date, props her body sideways on Skype to show me her belly — stretched and round, the only visual cue I've had to all that is about to change her life, and has already changed her body.

Another friend in B.C. is unexpectedly pregnant — carrying a child who'll be among the first cohort of failed-app babies, born of the dubious claim that there's an app even for birth control. Already, she's undergone a kaleidoscope of emotions for which I have no reference, along with physical changes: the nausea, fatigue, tenderness. Both friends will give birth and become mothers, and I will be cheering them on without any sense of the right words to say.

The worst part isn't wanting to relate, though, it's wanting to be useful. To babysit so your friend can grab a shower or something similarly self-indulgent. To swing by for a chat so they don't feel isolated. To experience a bit of their life, so they don't have to explain everything.

I have a niece and nephew in another city, so I already know the pain of missing out on a childhood. But my brother is older, and I almost expect him to chart territory I haven't yet, to be in a way unrelatable because he's up ahead.

Friendships, on the other hand, are in part built on sharing key life moments. It's never a perfect, parallel trajectory, but it's often close enough. Not so, anymore. Not now.

There's no solution to all this. The pain of distance can't always be ameliorated. You can't always be the friend you want to be. That's just the reality of babies in faraway places.

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Getting girls excited about tech

EDUCATION

Randi Zuckerberg hopes to pique interest with kids' show Dot

Megan Haynes
For Metro Canada

It's no secret that there aren't a lot of women participating in the science, tech, engineering and math (STEM) trades. But a new series on CBC set to air this fall hopes to encourage more girls to take an interest.

Based on the book by Randi Zuckerberg, Dot follows the adventures of the eponymous character, a little girl obsessed with technology.

Zuckerberg comes by her love of tech honestly: she was an early employee at Facebook (yes, she's Mark's sister), before founding her own marketing and media firm (she also did a quick detour to Broadway). We caught up with her to chat about what's keeping women out of STEM, and how a kids' show can help change that.

There seems to be a lot of vitriol targeted against women online, especially those who are vocal or active in the STEM space – what do you believe drives that negativity?

I think anytime you have only a few people in a space, they have giant bullseyes on them. So one thing we can do is up the numbers of women who are in tech to diffuse the focus away from the small number of women that are very prominent.

Do you think digital bullying has stymied female participation in the STEM field?

Digital bullying has had a huge impact, which is why I've spoken out against anonymity online. Now, of course there are always situations where people have to be anonymous online. But I think generally people who hide behind anonymity say cruel and terrible things that they would never say if they looked someone in the eye or if they had their real name or image attached to it.

We need to start encouraging more sites to (use) real-name identity. All the studies show people behave better when they're accountable for what they say.

The Prime Minister's wife, Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau said she needed more help as a mother and a public figure — and there was a lot of anger directed at her. When it comes to the tech space, do women get punished when they ask for help?

Well bravo to her! Nobody does anything in this world without a lot of help. Not CEOs or parents. There is a double edge sword: there's a lot of pressure on women to be the perfect mom, and great at business. But we need more women out there who are saying "I want to do it all, and I need help to do it all."

Taking you back to Dot, how will a children's show help change the conversation?

A lot of studies I've read show that by age seven or eight we start to lose girls in STEM fields. At that point, they've learned society says girls don't go into those fields. That boys have years of experience building things.

Media and pop culture play a very powerful role in changing the conversation. It starts with getting young girls excited and interested in tech and not losing them to another direction. In the series, there's a lot of powerful women. Dot is this funky, energetic, crazy entrepreneurial spirit. Her mom is an entrepreneur who is teaching Dot to use a 3D printer. Her mom is really techy, and you see her involved with Dot, but also with her own business.

Going off the screen, one of the things that drew me to this project is how many women are involved in the making of this series: On the Jim Henson team, the whole project is led by women. At (Toronto-based animation studio) Industrial Brothers, I was blown away by how many directors of animation are women. I think we're walking the walk both on screen and off screen.

Randi Zuckerberg wants to change the conversation when it comes to girls and technology.
FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES/FILE

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How Not Buying It will help your kids

PARENTING

Throwing your cash around will not have effect you want

From educational toys to bigger houses, sports to private school, parents are spending money on all the wrong things, says economist and journalist Brett Graff.

Graff, who goes by the moniker "The Home Economist," makes this case in her new book Not Buying It: Stop Overspending and Start Raising Happier, Healthier, More Successful Kids, which points out that less is more in almost every area that parents are bleeding cash.

Her findings? We're going broke buying stuff that has the opposite effect that we intend.

What inspired you to write the book?

We're spending out of fear and competition. We're terrified that if we say no to a particular expense, that we're saying no to education and no to safety. Economists assume that we're rational shoppers, but that is not the case, particularly if we happen to be parents. We are spending money to make our kids dumber, to make our kids less safe, to make them less healthy and to make them more vulnerable to narcissism, depression and failure.

How so?

For example, there are no (U.S.) federal guidelines for stamping the word "education" on a toy box. Expensive toys promote instant gratification and anything with a screen for babies under two promotes language delays and sleep disturbances. What the American Academy of Pediatrics says is kids who are left alone as early as four months old become problem solvers and creative thinkers. Researchers found that kids who play with blocks later scored better on tests for counting, measurement and judgment, and they scored better on math operations. Blocks cost $13. The latest iPad with every educational app and access to Mandarin lessons costs $900.

Everywhere you turn there's a neighbour putting a kid in another enriching activity that you hadn't even thought of. How does competition between the parents factor in here?

While we're spending this money to make our kids dumber, we feel very superior while we're doing it. "No, no, I don't have time today to go to the park — we have to go to Kumon class." Doctors have stood up in front of Congress and testified about our children's right to play. Play improves cognitive development, it fosters creativity, it helps with children's social skills, which improve the brain's executive function.

We seem to have bought into this idea that the world is a more competitive place and that we need to do these things to give them a leg up in life. What's your take on that?

One of the things that you have to consider when you're deciding what to purchase for your child is the reason that you're doing it. If you're buying your child something purely for the purpose of getting her into college, then you're making a mistake. If you're cultivating a talent because your child loves it, then that's lovely. A lot of people will say they want their kids to continue their sports or their dance because it teaches discipline and self-control, and I agree with that, but the truth is we can also teach our kids discipline and self-control free, at home, over breakfast.

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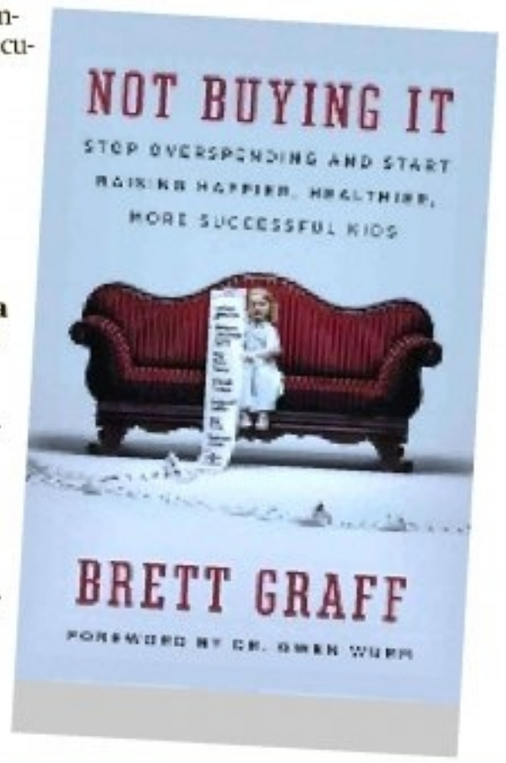
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STOP OVERSPENDING AND START RAISING HAPPIER, HEALTHIER, MORE SUCCESSFUL KIDS
BRETT GRAFF
FOREWORD BY DR. OWEN WURR

Money management takes a family

HOUSEHOLD

It may be easy for one person to handle the budget, but...

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada

If you're the only person in your house responsible for maintaining the family budget and managing the money, you're not doing yourself or your partner any favours.

Yes, being in control feels good. Yes, knowing that things will get done when they are supposed to makes it easier to sleep at night. But...

What if you got sick and couldn't manage the money anymore? What if you died?

Would that be the best time for your mate to be learning everything you did and how it has to be done? Doesn't it make more sense for your pal to get involved in the family finances while you're able to guide and encourage?

While you may think your filing system is intuitive because you've gone to great pains to organize it and put things in a logical order, the first time your partner looks at it they'll be lost.

Create a list of what's what and where it is so that there is a road map your honey can follow. There's a good chance that you're counting on your awesome memory for a lot of what you do. Putting it on paper will help you to identify where there may be steps you may have overlooked describing.

If you get your bills electronically, does your sweetheart have access to your email? If you go into hospital to have your herniated disc repaired, will she be able to pay the phone bill on time? Does he know where all the bank accounts are? How about the investments? Does she have a list of all the bills that are paid, automatically or manually, so she knows how much money is going out?

There's a good chance that you're counting on your awesome memory for a lot of what you do. Putting it on paper will help you identify steps you may have overlooked.

Just knowing where everything is won't help a bit if your partner doesn't have access, so make sure he knows what the passwords on accounts are.

If you've been paying all the bills though your personal account, this is a good time to set up a joint account to which you both have access for household bill payments so you can share a password. Then you can (and you should) keep your personal information private.

While you're going over your system, take some time to explain why you do the things you do. Just saying, "do it this way" doesn't give buddy any insight into why your system works and he may be tempted to mess with it. So explain yourself.

"We have our chequing account at this bank because it's really convenient for deposits and cash withdrawals and we don't end up paying extra ABM fees. We keep our savings here because they pay more interest than our other bank does."

Or...

"We make the minimum payment on this credit card on the 15th, five days before it's due so we're sure it goes through. At the end of the month, assuming there are no surprises, we put an additional $200 against this card to pay down the balance."

An explanation will go a long way to preserving the system you've worked so hard to create.

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvazoxlade.com

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YOU CAN DO THIS PLUMBER

'A passion for fixing things'

WHY I LIKE MY JOB

Michael Yuffa, licensed plumber and owner of WaterWorks in Toronto, Ont.

My advice to younger folks who may feel stuck or don't know what to do with their careers? Take the plunge and try out a profession in mechanical techniques. As a teenager, I enjoyed tinkering with and repairing mechanical devices, so it seemed like a natural step for me to pursue an apprenticeship in plumbing. After obtaining my master plumber licence, I began individually servicing water systems, fixtures, boilers and faucets for both residential and commercial clients.

Personally, I've noticed an abundance of opportunities for those just starting out in this trade. Having advanced to the owner of my own business, I've had the opportunity to train and mentor several young tradespeople along the way. I teach and enforce excellence in client service, which is arguably the most important aspect of the job.

I love the feeling of satisfaction after repairing or improving something for a client. I have a passion for fixing things, and my goal is to make household devices safer and easier to use. A career in plumbing was an easy, smart choice for me. After all, faucets will always be leaking...

THE BASICS: Plumber

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Median salary of licensed plumbers in Canada, with an average wage of $27.54/hour. Master plumbers, independent contractors or unionized plumbers can earn upwards of **$83,412** annually.

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HOW TO START

Many colleges offer formal plumbing or apprenticeship programs that provide hands-on training. Programs generally last up to two years and prepare students for an apprenticeship, which typically requires 9,000 hours of paid labour before writing the formal qualification trade exam. All provinces have websites connecting existing and prospective plumbers with relevant jobs.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

Common avenues for licensed professionals include residential, commercial and industrial plumbing. This trade's bright outlook is supported by both an inflow of commercial construction projects and widespread pressure to replace dated fixtures with new, water-efficient plumbing systems. Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario and B.C. anticipate a significant increase in job opportunities over the next 3-5 years.

NEXT CAREER STEP

Some licensed plumbers go on to manage their own contracting business, while others may qualify for work as a mechanical engineer, estimator or maintenance manager. Technicians will benefit from advanced training in computer design, layout and project management applications to meet the industry's growing demand for technical skills.

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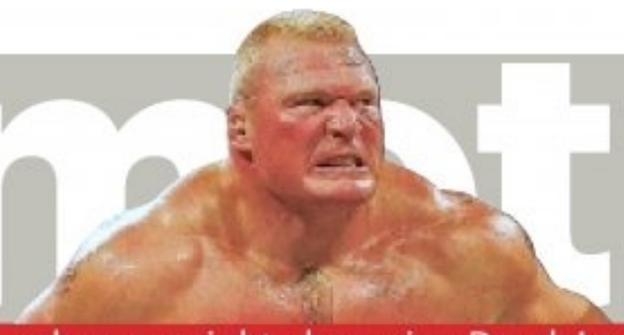

Former heavyweight champion Brock Lesnar will return to mixed martial arts with a bout at UFC 200 in Las Vegas next month

Dubs all over Cavs

NBA FINALS

Golden State goes ahead 2-0 as series shifts to Cleveland

GAME 2 In Oakland

110	77

The repeat championship Golden State has spoken of since the very start more than eight months ago is suddenly two wins from becoming reality.

That's the only way the Warriors' record-setting season will feel right. They certainly look unstoppable.

Draymond Green flexed his bulging biceps with big plays on both ends of the floor all night for 28 points, seven rebounds and five assists, while MVP Stephen Curry scored 18 points, and Golden State thoroughly overwhelmed the Cleveland Cavaliers 110-77 in Game 2 of the NBA Finals on Sunday night.

Once the Splash Brothers found their shooting touch, Cleveland couldn't keep up. Klay Thompson got hot after halftime to finish with 17 points and five assists as Golden State became the first team to go ahead 2-0 in the Finals since the Lakers in 2009 against Orlando.

The series shifts to Cleveland, and LeBron James and the Cavs must show up for Game 3 on Wednesday in front of their title-starved fans with forward Kevin Love dealing with a head injury.

The NBA said Love experienced dizziness early in the second half and left for the locker-room to be re-examined, then was placed in the NBA's concussion protocol. The league said he didn't exhibit any symptoms before then, even after taking an elbow to the back of the head from Harrison Barnes in the second quarter and going down for several minutes before returning following a timeout. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warriors forward Draymond Green defends Cavaliers forward LeBron James during Game 2 of the NBA Finals in Oakland, Sunday. MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOXING

Louisville unites in prayer, homage

Muhammad Ali's younger brother wept, swayed to hymns and hugged anyone he could reach. He raised his hands to the sky, eyes closed, surrounded by congregants at the church where their father once worshipped.

Rahaman Ali took centre stage at the two-hour, high-energy service at King Solomon Missionary Baptist Church, sitting in a front-row pew with his wife, Caroline. The church is not far from the little pink house in Louisville's west end where the Ali brothers grew up.

Muhammad Ali GETTY IMAGES

It was one of several emotional remembrances Sunday as the city joined together to mourn its most celebrated son, the Louisville Lip. Later this week, politicians, celebrities and fans from around the globe are expected for a Friday memorial service that Ali planned himself with the intent of making it open to all. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UFC

Bisping takes title with first-round KO

The beer in Michael Bisping's hand was neither his first nor his last of the night. He savoured every sip between his soliloquies deep inside the Forum, the UFC middleweight title belt gleaming in front of him.

After 26 fights in a decade with the UFC, Bisping had just beaten Luke Rockhold in the first round. At 37 years old, the motor-mouthed English bad boy was a UFC champion.

Many men would be speechless. Not many men are Bisping. "Ten years and I never got a title fight, and then I just knocked this bum out in the first round," Bisping said while Rockhold glowered a few feet away at the post-fight news conference.

"I'm just going to relish this moment. I'm going to ride the crest of this wave. I'm going to have a few drinks. After that, once I get rid of the throbbing in my head, I'll take a look at the landscape and see who wants knocking out next."

No, Bisping's arrogance and boorishness didn't vanish when the belt went around his waist, as evidenced by the homophobic slur he apparently muttered — and then immediately regretted — after Rockhold refused to shake his hand. But at the biggest moment in his career, Bisping also was reflective on the path that led to a title.

"I worked my life toward this. I've made a lot of sacrifices. I quit work when I had a wife and two kids and we had no money. We were broke, but she supported me. I moved away to another city. I remember sleeping in my car and trying to open the door with this much snow on top of it. People don't know the road I've been on."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Bisping swings at Luke Rockhold GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Canada's men's volleyball team ends Olympic wait

Canada beat China 3-2 on Sunday to secure the final Olympic berth at a men's volleyball qualification tournament.

Canada finished fourth with a 4-3 record and clinched its first Olympic berth in 24 years when world champions Poland defeated Australia 3-0.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

De Grasse's Diamond win

Canada's Andre De Grasse won the men's 200-metres on Sunday at the Diamond League event in sunny Birmingham, England.

The 21-year-old from Markham, Ont., finished in 20.16 seconds — his best time of the season — edging Alonso Edward from Panama (20.17) and Sean McLean of the U.S (20.24). THE CANADIAN PRESS

Novak Djokovic kisses the trophy following his victory against Andy Murray in the French Open men's singles final at Roland Garros on Sunday. DENNIS GROMBKOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

Djokovic captures elusive French title

TENNIS

Beating Murray means Serb now holds all Grand Slam titles

A French Open champion at long last, and the first man in nearly a half-century to win four consecutive major championships, Novak Djokovic grabbed a racket and etched a heart in the very red clay that had given him such heartache in the past.

Then, when he finally was handed the La Coupe des Mousquetaires — the one trophy he truly yearned for, the one he needed to complete a career Grand Slam — Djokovic held it overhead, his eyes shut, before kissing it, exhaling and smiling broadly.

In his 12th appearance at Roland Garros, and fourth final, the top-seeded Djokovic earned that elusive title with a 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 victory over No. 2 Andy Murray on Sunday, buoyed by a supportive crowd that repeatedly chanted his nickname, "No-le!"

"It's really a very special moment," Djokovic said. "Perhaps the greatest moment of my career." Since losing the 2015 final in Paris, Djokovic has won 28 Grand Slam matches in a row, from Wimbledon and the U.S. Open last year, to the Australian Open in January, and now, after quite a wait, the French Open.

"This is something that is so rare in tennis," said Murray, who is now 2-8 in Grand Slam finals. "It's going to take a long time for it to happen again."

WOMEN'S DRAW

Garbine Muguruza won her first Grand Slam title by beating defending champion Serena Williams 7-5, 6-4 in the women's final on Saturday, denying the American her record-equaling 22nd major trophy.

The last man to hold all four major titles simultaneously was Rod Laver in 1969, when he earned a calendar-year Grand Slam. Djokovic now can set his sights on that ultimate tennis achievement; he's the first man since Jim Courier in 1992 to get halfway.

Djokovic, a 29-year-old from Serbia, owns six titles from the Australian Open, three from Wimbledon and two from the U.S. Open for a Grand Slam total of 12. Among men, only Roger Federer (with 17), Rafael Nadal (14) and Pete Sampras (14) have more. Djokovic is also one of eight men with at least one championship at each major.

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RECIPE Shrimp with Bacon and Polenta

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

We like to call this meal a back pocket dinner because you can get it on the table fast since it leans on pantry staples.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 cup instant polenta
- 4 1/2 cups water
- 1/4 cup bacon, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 28 oz can of tomatoes
- 1 lb frozen or fresh shrimp, peeled, deveined, washed
- 1 small handful of parsley

Directions

1. Bring water to boil and slowly pour in polenta. Lower the heat and keep stirring for 3 to 5 minutes. Then take it off the heat and cover.

2. In a large pot, warm the olive oil then add bacon and garlic. Cook for a few minutes until the bacon gets brown, but not crispy. Add the tomatoes and break them up with the back of a wooden spoon or a potato masher. Simmer for about 10 minutes.

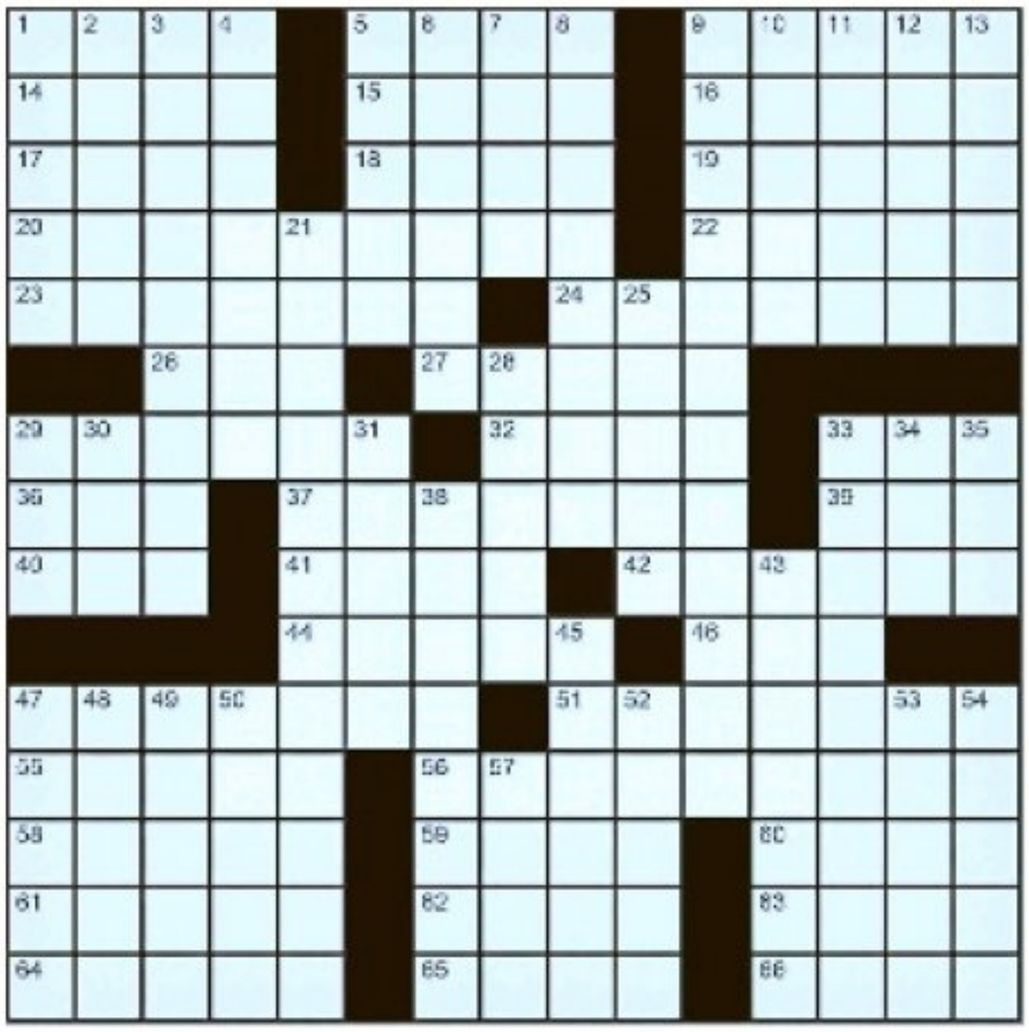
3. Toss the shrimp, with or without tails, into the tomato mixture and stir, cooking about 3 minutes, or until shrimp are cooked.

4. Give your polenta another stir and maybe even add a splash of water to loosen it. Create a nest of polenta and then ladle your sauce-y shrimp on top. Garnish with parsley.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Be boastful
5. Chicken origins
9. Super fun time
14. "Game of Thrones" actress Ms. Headey
15. Herr's wife
16. Employee's time to eat
17. Good vs. _
18. Plummet
19. Outkast member, _ 3000
20. Getting-nearer-to-the-end sports tournament round
22. Toronto's Loma, and others
23. Procrastinated
24. Vexing
26. Coffee alternative
27. Kept
29. Flowers
32. Surrealist painter Salvador
33. 'Client' ending (Patronage)
36. Rowboat paddle
37. 'A Prairie Oasis' town of southwest Saskatchewan
39. Neighbour of Swed.
40. The first American Idol ...her initials-sharers
41. Flippant
42. No sharps/No flats music scale: letter + word
44. 1966: "Walk Away _" by The Left Banke
46. 'Mountain'-meaning prefix
47. Ignore/send away
51. Wealthy
55. Up to a certain time
56. Nut variety
58. Drop the drink
59. Finishes a cake
60. Spin
61. Wedding gown fabric
62. Old shipping weight allowance
63. United, feminine in French
64. War horse
65. "Bonanza" son
66. Vintage muscle cars

DOWN
1. Sanctify
2. Strengthen, as an embankment
3. Hanna-Barbera, and others
4. Legendary astronomer who lived from 1564 to 1642
5. _ Trinket, Elizabeth Banks' role in 'Hunger Games' movies
6. Baby _ (Types of pianos)
7. Fabulous festivity
8. "The Miracle Worker" (1962) teacher, Anne _
9. A real 'jewel' of a town in Alberta: 2 wds.
10. Belonging to Rome's moon goddess
11. _ _ it goes (There you have it)
12. Buzz off!
13. Guess Who's "_ Eyes"
21. Specialty at Canadian fast food chain Harvey's, _-_ burgers
25. Excavation extraction
28. Sun-dried brick
29. _ choy (Leafy vegetable)
30. 'Lake' in Chicoutimi
31. Bargains
33. Fun-ness/delight
34. British bathroom
35. Flub
38. Craftsperson who works with light metals
43. Carpet store purchase: 2 wds.
45. Hosts an event
47. Tidies the coffee table
48. Opinion
49. Gateway to swipe a subway pass
50. _-feuille (Type of French pastry)
52. Hops-drying kilns
53. Farm song letters
54. Hills and _
57. 'Height'-meaning prefix

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is a lovely day to enjoy the company of siblings, neighbours and relatives. People will make an effort to engage with each other because everyone feels friendly and warmhearted.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Start this week off with clever moneymaking ideas. Business and commerce are favoured today, so you have the advantage. If shopping, you will love to buy beautiful things.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is a great day to buy wardrobe treasures. Go shopping for something that makes you feel great. You probably will succeed in finding something.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Solitude in beautiful surroundings will delight you today. It's a gentle day, if you can get some peace and quiet. We all need time for quiet introspection and self-reflection.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This is a wonderful day to schmooze with others and deal with groups and organizations. You might influence someone who is artistic or creative. Or perhaps someone who is artistic will influence you.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You might develop a crush on your boss or someone in a position of authority today. Certainly, relations with authority figures will be smooth and easy today.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You long to travel for pleasure. If you can get out of town today, do so. At least visit museums, art galleries and places that inspire you.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Keep your pockets open because gifts, goodies and the wealth and assets of others can benefit you. If someone offers you something, just say, "Thank you!"

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is an excellent day to enlist the help of others and to work jointly with a partner or close friend. People feel very warm and loving to each other.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Expect a raise or at least praise at work today, because others are impressed with you. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Romance, love affairs, vacations and playful times are tops on the menu for you today. This is a fun-loving, pleasant day!

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will enjoy doing something to make your home look more attractive. This is also a good day to explore real estate possibilities.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	5	7	9				3	4
		8	7	4		5	6	
				5		7		
			6	7	1			
		6				1		
1	7		2				9	
4							2	
	6	3	5				7	
			3	2			8	

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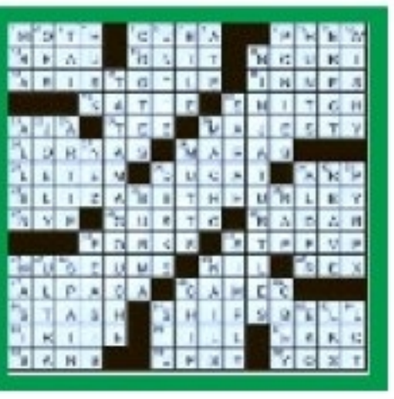
FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

9	8	3	6	5	7	1	2	4
7	4	5	1	2	9	6	3	8
2	6	1	3	4	8	7	9	5
1	2	9	8	7	5	4	6	3
5	7	8	4	3	6	9	1	2
4	3	6	2	9	1	8	5	7
3	1	7	9	8	2	5	4	6
8	9	2	5	6	4	3	7	1
6	5	4	7	1	3	2	8	9



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